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HOUSE MEMORIAL 19

48TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2007

INTRODUCED BY

Miguel P. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO STUDY THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMANE IMPLICATIONS OF PERSISTENTLY TETHERING DOMESTIC DOGS.

WHEREAS, tethering a dog is the practice of fastening or chaining a dog to a stationary object or ground stake as a means of keeping the dog under control; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for dogs not to be vicious; and

WHEREAS, the American veterinary medical association task force on canine aggression and human-canine interactions concludes that tethering dogs contributes to aggressive behavior; and

WHEREAS, the United States department of agriculture issued a statement on July 2, 1996 against tethering, stating

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1 in the *Federal Register*, "Our experience in enforcing the
2 Animal Welfare Act has led us to conclude that continuous
3 confinement of dogs by a tether is inhumane. A tether
4 significantly restricts a dog's movement. A tether can also
5 become tangled around or hooked on the dog's shelter structure
6 or other objects, further restricting the dog's movement and
7 potentially causing injury"; and

8 WHEREAS, tethered dogs account for twenty-five percent of
9 human fatalities from dog bites; and

10 WHEREAS, tethered dogs are often frustrated, frightened
11 and easily agitated; and

12 WHEREAS, tethered dogs are nearly three times as likely
13 to attack than non-tethered dogs; and

14 WHEREAS, children are the most common victims of dog
15 attacks; and

16 WHEREAS, tethered dogs kill more children annually than
17 attacks on children from scorpions, hornets, wasps, bees,
18 venomous snakes, lizards and spiders combined; and

19 WHEREAS, a conservative estimate of the annual cost for
20 medical treatment for dog bites is two hundred fifty million
21 dollars (\$250,000,000), even though less than one-fifth of the
22 victims of dog bites seek medical treatment; and

23 WHEREAS, more than one hundred municipalities and four
24 states across the United States limit or prohibit the
25 tethering of dogs;

